



Sunnyvale

Reducing Single-Use Plastics: Phase 2

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Agenda

- 1 Background
- 2 Data Collection and Pilot
- 3 Staff Recommendations
- 4 Discussion

Single-Use Plastics Background

- 17% of Commercial waste stream (by weight) is plastic, most is single-use
- >90% plastic isn't recyclable, creates litter/pollution
- 2022: Council approved Phase 1: foodware ordinance
- Council asked Staff to return with additional strategies



Data Collection (Surveys) and Pilot

- Business survey
- Pilot:
 - ◆ Mini-grants (\$300) for 19 participants
 - ◆ Reusables (14)
 - ◆ Compostables (5)
 - ◆ Reusables To-Go (1)

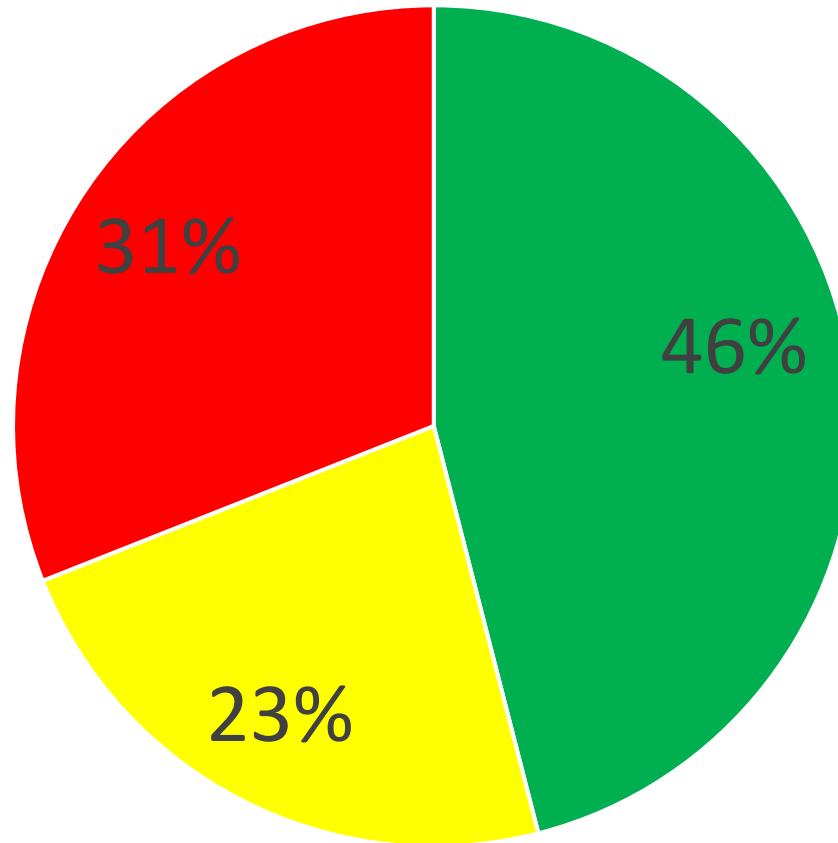


Business Survey (Food/Bev Businesses)

- Survey – 87 responses, 19% sample size of total
- Most had seating capacity 26-50
- 2/3 offer both dine-in and to-go for customers
- 98% have mechanized or 3-sink dishwasher



Foodware Usage for Dine-In Customers



■ All Reusables

■ Reusable/Disposable mix

■ All Disposables

Business Survey Results - Barriers and Benefits of Reusables

Barriers

- Half of responders listed these as top barriers:
 - ◆ Staffing for dishwashing
 - ◆ Space for dishwasher and reusables



Benefits

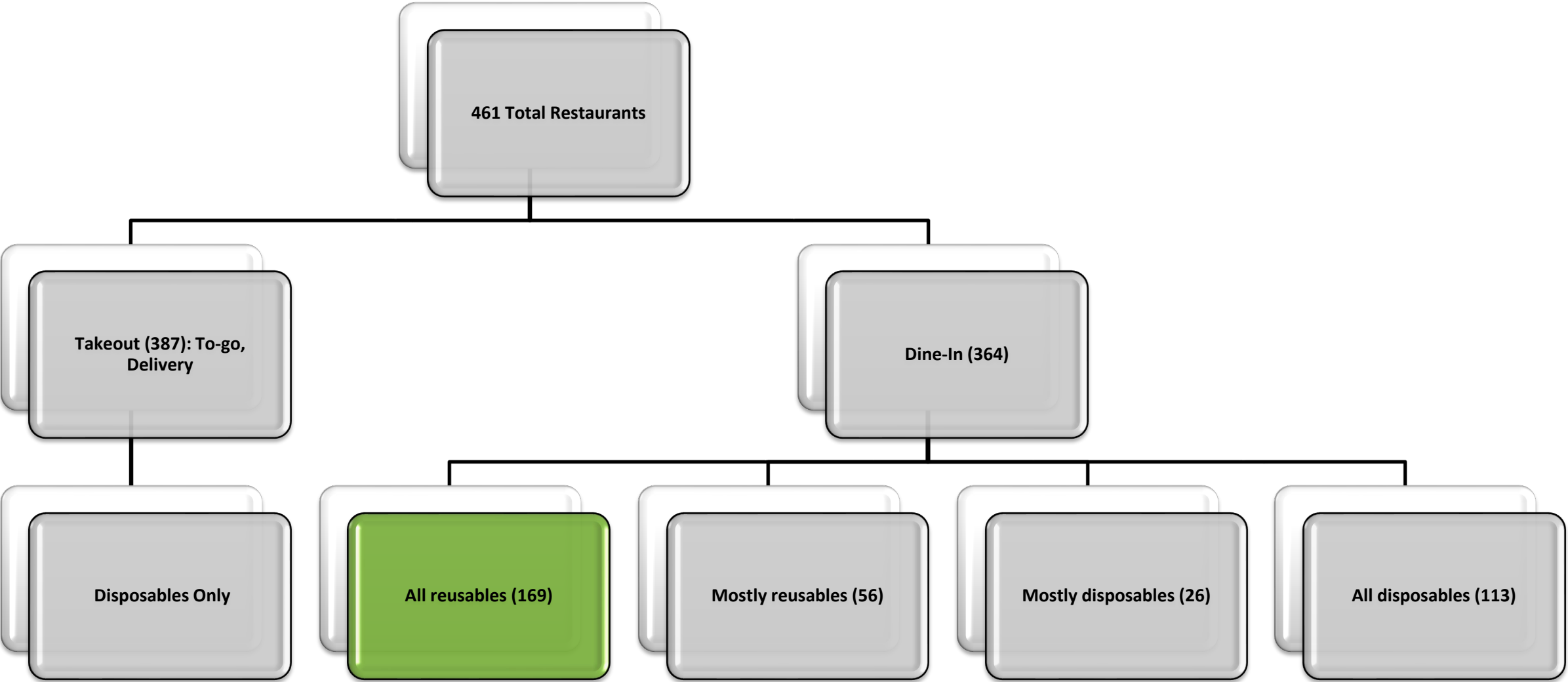
- Two-thirds listed these as top benefits:
 - ◆ Better food presentation
 - ◆ Waste reduction
 - ◆ Cost savings

Other Business Survey Takeaways

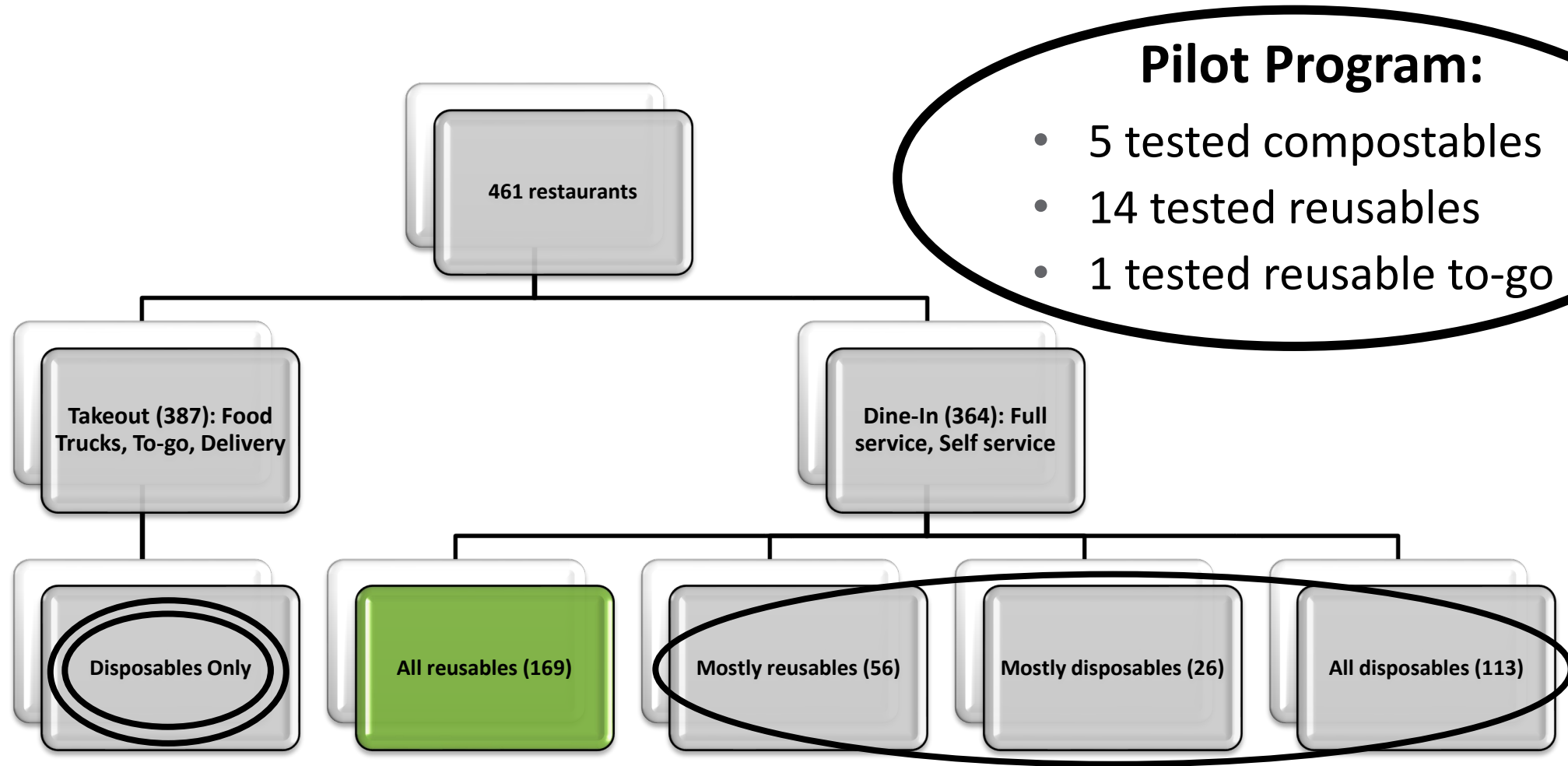


- What would help you switch to reusables?
 - ◆ Grant or rebate to purchase dishware
 - ◆ Local ordinance requiring it
- 75% "yes" or "maybe" to trying compostable foodware
- Fees for disposables (i.e. cup charges) and discounts for reusables were unpopular
- Roughly half open to customer BYO for cups, containers

Overview of Sunnyvale Food/Bev Businesses

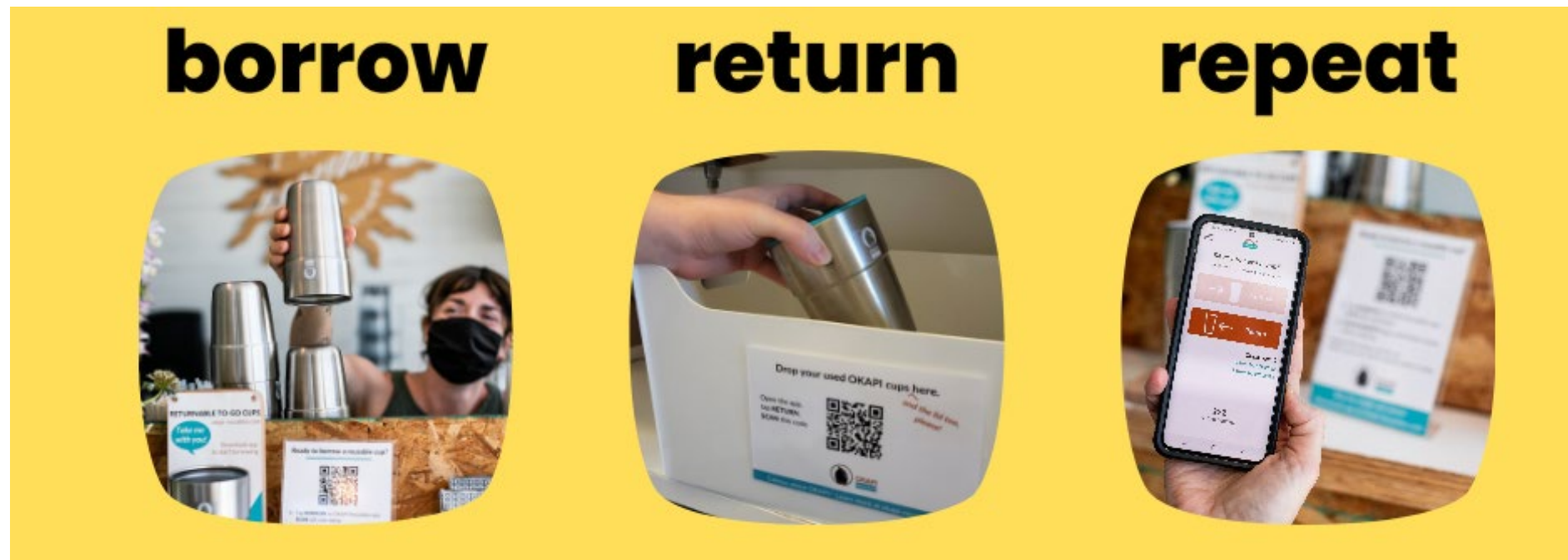


Pilot Program Businesses



Reusables To-Go (3rd Party Provider)

- Reusable to-go cup borrowing program
- Worked with Okapi for pilot; secured one boba shop
- Potential to conduct more pilots



Pilot Program Outcomes



Restaurants switching to reusables:

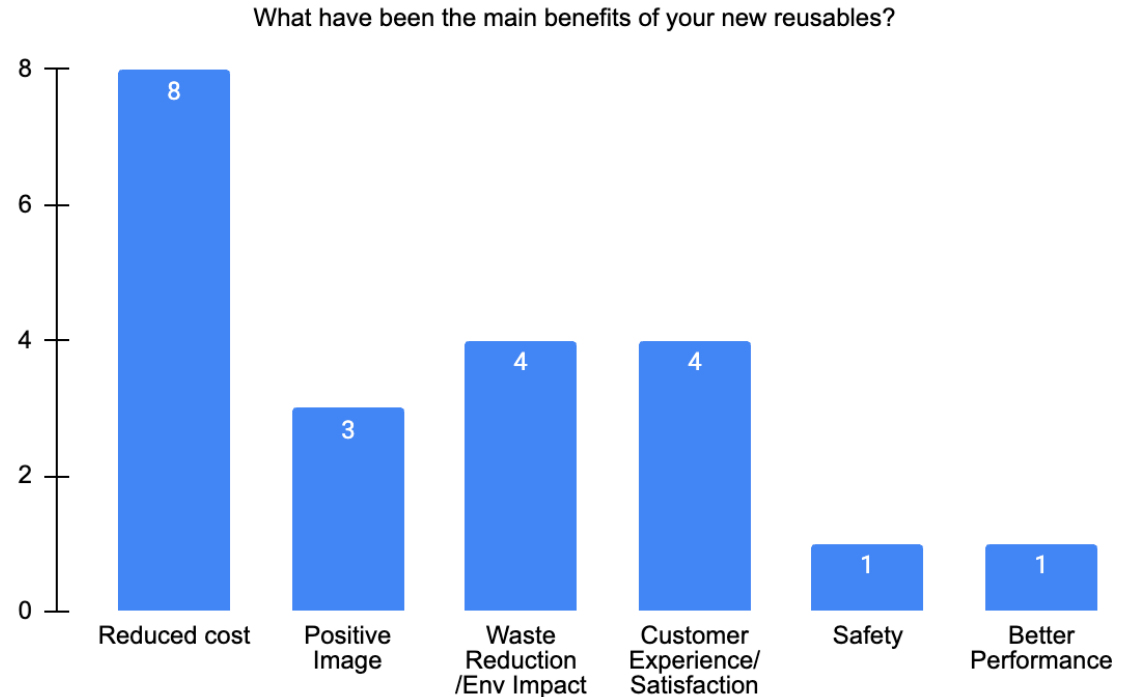
- Annual savings from not purchasing disposables: \$1,600 to \$18,000
- Reduction 590 – 1,650 lbs. garbage annually

Switching to compostables:

- No reduction in cost or garbage

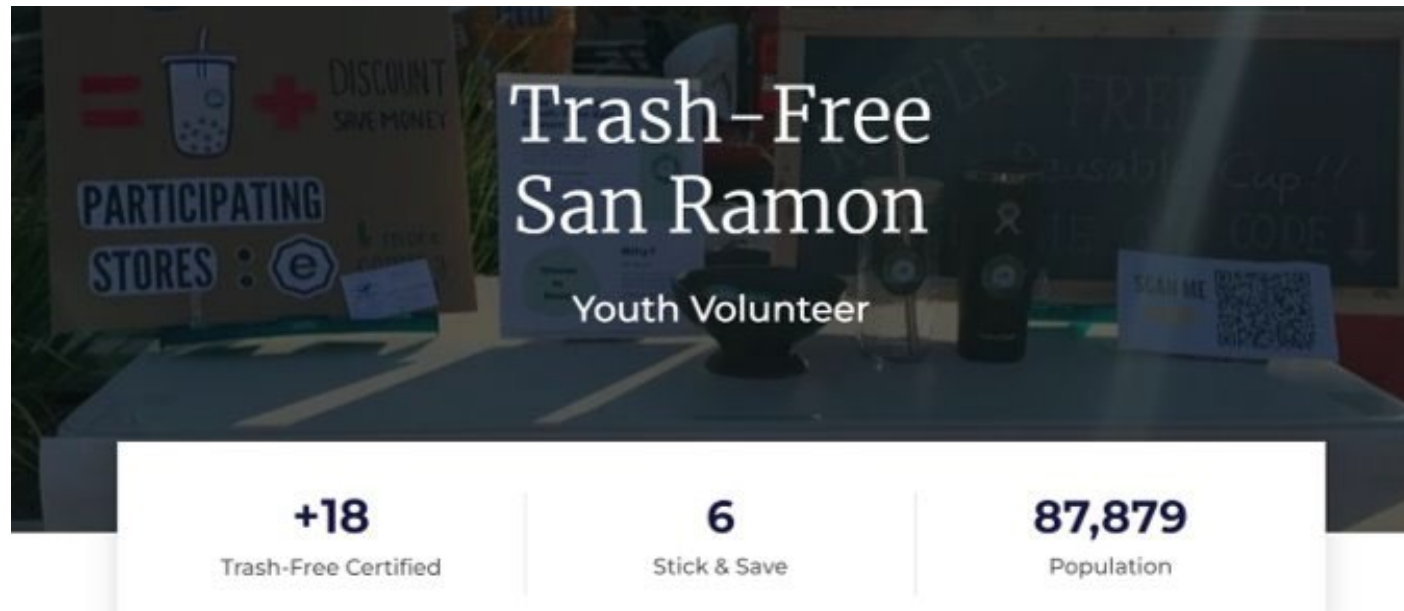
What we learned from the pilot

- 83% participants still using reusables
- 64% want to swap out more disposables
- 17% indicated increase in dishwashing, not a deterrent.
- Other challenges: plate breakage, customers throwing away dishware



Lessons from other cities

- Foodware ordinances in Berkeley, Cupertino, Santa Cruz
- Enforcement is a challenge; cities lack resources
- Charging for disposables isn't successful
- Education (for public & restaurant owners) is a priority



Related Legislation / Initiatives

- AB 1276
- SB 54
- Regional Reuse campaigns

Cut By	Recycle	Ensure
		
25%	65%	100%
Single-use plastic:	Of single-use plastic:	Of single-use:
• Packaging and • Food ware	• Packaging and • Food ware	• Packaging • Plastic food ware
SB 54		Is recyclable or compostable

AB 1276

In compliance with State law, you must ask for these items if you want them with your order:

- Utensils
- Chopsticks
- Condiment cups/packets
- Straws
- Stirrers
- Splash sticks
- Cocktail sticks



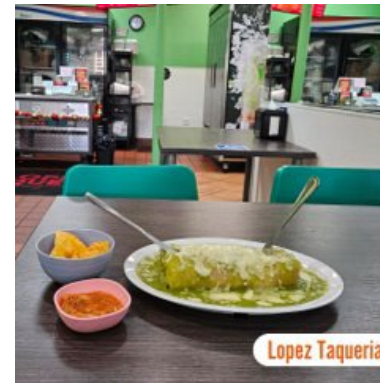
Staff Recommendations (3-year plan)



1. Mini grants to restaurants to purchase reusables
2. Focused outreach to affect resident behavior change
3. City walks the walk
4. No compostables requirements for now
5. No ordinance for now

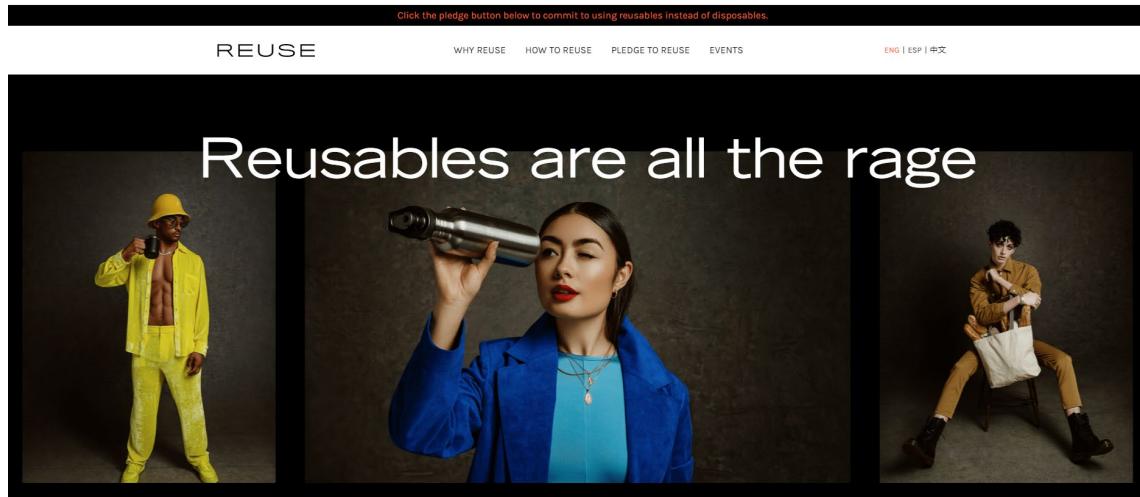
Mini Grants

- Investment of \$300 (partial switch) to \$500 (full switch) per restaurant
- 195 restaurants within these categories



Outreach campaign

- In English, Spanish, simplified Chinese (from survey)
- Focus on “bring your own” cup/containers (giveaways)
- Messaging to reduce use of single use plastics



Walk the Walk

- Internal City Policy:
 - For City events, external caterers required to serve on reusables
 - Staff use reusables for internal gatherings
- Zero waste City-sponsored events (e.g. Earth Day Fair, EV Ride & Drive)



Plan for Compostables

- On hold until after SMaRT Station NextGen upgrades
- No reduction in cost or garbage



No Ordinance

- Revisit in 3 years
 - Cities with ordinances struggling to enforce
 - Restaurants need financial/technical support first



Three Year Budget (FY 2025-2027)

Recommendation	Cost
Restaurant Mini-grants for reusables purchase	\$80,000
Consultant for mini-grant outreach	\$30,000
Consultant for Outreach Campaign	\$50,000
Reusable Giveaways	\$23,000
Dishware for City Departments	\$3,000
Reusables for catered/City-sponsored events	\$60,000
Total Cost	\$246,000

Funds already available in Zero Waste Strategic Plan project budget

Feedback from City Council

- Staff recommendations
 1. Mini grants to restaurants to purchase reusables
 2. Focused outreach to affect resident behavior change
 3. City walks the walk
 4. No compostables requirements for now
 5. No ordinance for now
- Questions/Discussion



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Thank you!